GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5956
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
SPREAD OF AIDS
Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a tribe, Dommara, mainly found in Telangana and Karnataka regions are facing extinction due to the spread of AIDS as appeared in The Hindu dated January 14, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/ to be taken by the Government to control the spread of AIDS in the said regions ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) No Sir. There is no survey conducted on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in `Dommara` community. `Dommara` is a community notified under BC(A) category by Government of Andhra Pradesh. Some women in this nomadic community indulge in sex work. But there is no specific data available on HIV prevelance in this community. The study mentioned in the news item by the `Human Action for Rural Development` (HARD). Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) was done in Ramayampeta town of Medak district on the `Dommara` community womens` vulnerability and not on HIV prevalence.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Targeted Interventions (TIs) taken up by International HIV/Alliance, as part of Bill & Melinda Gates Avahan programme, cover the `Dommara` Community of Ramayampet in the Medak district for promotion of sexual health and prevention of STDs and HIV.

Voluntary counseling and training facility has been set up in all district hospitals & in all sub district 100 bedded area hospitals in this region. Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Centres have also been set up in all district hospitals.